STATEMENT BY MINISTER The stay of Ms. Taslima Nasreen in India

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI ANAND SHARMA): Sir, I rise to inform the House of the Government of India's stand on an issue which has attracted considerable public attention in recent days.

As hon. Members are aware, noted Bangladeshi writer, Ms. Taslima Nasreen, has been in India for some time. Throughout history, India has never refused shelter to those who have come and sought our protection. This civilisational heritage, which is now Government policy, will continue and India will provide shelter to Ms. Nasreen. Those who have been granted shelter here have always undertaken to eschew political activities in India or any actions which may harm India's relations with friendly countries. It is also expected that the guests will refrain from activities and expressions that may hurt the sentiments of our people.

While these guests are in India, the Union and the State Governments provide them with protection. These policies will also apply in Ms. Taslima Nasreen's case.

श्री उपसभापति : इस पर कल क्लोरिफिकेशन होंगे।

GOVERNMENT BILLS

The Sashastra Seema Bal Bill, 2006

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL): Sir, I beg to move:

> "That the Bill to provide for the constitution and regulation of an armed force of the Union for ensuring the security of the borders of India and for matters connected therewith, be taken into consideration."

The Sashastra Seema Bal Bill, 2006 was introduced in the Rajya Sabha on 28.7.2006 and the same was further referred by the Chairman, Rajya Sabha to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Home Affairs on 3rd August, 2006, for consideration. The Committee considered the draft report on the Bill in its sitting held on 22.2.2007 and adopted the same. The Committee, in the process of examining the Bill and in finalising its report took up clause-by-clause consideration of the Bill in its sitting held on 8th and 9th January, 2007 and made certain recommendations.

Regarding definition of 'enemy" and 'enrolling of non-citizens', it is proposed to amend the relevant clauses in the Bill in the following manner. Regarding the definition of enemy, as envisaged in clause 2(1), enemy includes all armed mutineers, armed rebels, armed rioters, pirates, terrorists and any person in arms against whom it is the duty of any person subject to this Act to take action. It is the same definition, as adopted in the Assam Rifles Act by Parliament in the year 2006. Regarding enrolment, as envisaged in clause 6(1) and 6(2), it is proposed to delete clause 6(1) which relates to enrolment of non-citizens of India in SSB for a limited period. Clause 6(2) is proposed to be renumbered as clause 6 which defines enrolment as persons to be enrolled to the force. The mode of enrolment and the procedure for enrolment shall be such as may be prescribed. The Bill is now renamed as Sashastra Seema Bal Bill, 2007.

With these words, Sir, I commend this Bill to this august House for consideration and approval.

The question was proposed